

### **Hungry Mother Lake Level Lowered for Dredging**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is lowering the lake level at Hungry Mother Lake (Hungry Mother State Park in Smyth County) about 12 feet to prepare for dredging. The dredging project will remove heavy deposits of sediment that have accumulated in certain areas of the reservoir over the years. The sedimentation in these areas has greatly reduced fish habitat and virtually eliminated access by boat. The dredging project will improve fish habitat and increase the lake area accessible to anglers and recreational boaters. Dredging is scheduled to start in October and should be complete by March 2009. The boat ramp will be out of the water during the drawdown, so boaters will only be able to launch boats that can be carried. The lower lake level should not adversely affect the fish populations in the lake. Biologists plan to construct fish attractors in shoreline areas exposed by the drawdown.

For more information contact Tom Hampton (276) 783-4860.